

Appln No. 09/922,105
Amdt. Dated March 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 23, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Applicant has carefully considered the official communication dated January 23, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and the following remarks are fully responsive to the official communication.
2. The claims have been amended in light of the official communication. It is submitted that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.
3. In paragraph 2 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 to 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akhavian et al.
4. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the fact that the elongate carrier has an ink supply side and a printhead side. Both the ink supply side and the printhead side define discrete feed formations. The, or each, feed formation on the printhead side extends through the carrier and is in fluid communication with a number of feed openings defined in the carrier from the ink supply side. It follows that the carrier has both feed formations and feed openings that extend through the carrier. Furthermore, there is a cover assembly that is engageable with the carrier to enclose the feed formations.
5. It is respectfully submitted that Akhavian et al do not disclose such an arrangement. As is clearly shown in the drawings of Akhavian et al, only "ink passages 323" extend through "the substrate 32" from what can be described as the ink supply side to open at what can be described at the printhead side of the "substrate 32". There are clearly no ink feed formations defined on the printhead side of the substrate 32 that extend through the substrate 32 to be in fluid communication with the "printheads 40", via the ink passages 323, from the ink supply side of the substrate 32 of Akhavian et al.
6. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Akhavian et al does not disclose a cover assembly that encloses the ink feed formations on the printhead side, simply because, as stated above, there are no ink feed formations on the printhead side of the substrate 32 of Akhavian et al.
7. It follows that Applicant respectfully submits that the invention claimed in claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Akhavian et al.
8. Claims 2 and 4 to 7 are all dependent on claim 1, as amended. It follows that the above paragraphs are apposite to those claims. Claim 14, as amended, is directed to a page width printing device which includes a carrier and a cover assembly with the same limitations of claim 1, as amended. It follows that Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, as amended, is not anticipated by Akhavian et al.
9. In paragraph 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akhavian et al in view of Thiel et al.
10. In support of this the Examiner has stated that: "Akhavian et al disclose everything claimed, as discussed above, with the exception of a plastic carrier"

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11. As set out in the preceding paragraphs, Applicant respectfully submits that Akhavian et al does not disclose everything as claimed in claim 1, as amended.

12. It follows that Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as claimed in claim 3 is not obvious in the light of Akhavian et al read with Thiel et al.

13. In paragraph 5 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akhavian et al in view of Su et al.

14. In support of this, the Examiner has stated that: "Akhavian et al disclose the invention of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 14 as discussed above."

15. As set out in the preceding paragraphs, Applicant respectfully submits that Akhavian et al do not disclose everything as claimed in claim 1, as amended.

16. It follows that Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as claimed in claims 8, 9 and 11 is not obvious in the light of Akhavian et al read with Thiel et al.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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